

Message Text

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SUBJECT: THIRD SESSION OF WMO INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL FOR FIRST
GARP GLOBAL EXPERIMENT (FGGE), 19-23 JULY 1976

1. SUMMARY

THE PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF PANEL SESSION WAS TO APPROVE AND ADVANCE THE PREPARATION OF SPECIFIC PLANS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FGGE. IN ADDITION, THE PANEL RECEIVED AND PROVIDED CURRENT INFORMATION ON INTENDED CONTRIBUTIONS OF MAJOR RESOURCES FOR THE EXPERIMENT. THESE WERE EVALUATED IN LIGHT OF RECENT GUIDANCE FROM WMO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EX COM) AND GARP JOINT ORGANIZING COMMITTEE (JOC). ALTHOUGH A FEW SIGNICANT DEFICIENCIES AND UNCERTAINTIES REMAIN, DETAILED PLANNING IS PROCEEDING SATISFACTORILY TOWARD A COMPREHENSIVE GLOBAL EXPERIMENT, WITH THE OPERATIONAL YEAR BEGINNING IN FALL OF 1978, AS AGREED PREVIOUSLY.

2. THE PANEL REVIEWED A DRAFT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN THAT OUTLINED ALL MAJOR ACTIVITIES REQUIRING INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION AND DOCUMENTATION, AND AGREED THAT AN UPDATED VERSION SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR APPROVAL AT THE NEXT SESSION AND DISTRIBUTED EARLY IN 1977. TO ASSIST IN THIS EFFORT, THE PANEL ESTABLISHED A SET OF CONCRETE MILESTONES TO PROVIDE TARGET DATES AND GUIDE-
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LINES FOR DETERMINING THE CONTENT, COMPLETING AND UPDATING ALL

MAJOR SECTIONS OF IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.

3. THE PANEL HAD BEEN PROVIDED RECENT GUIDANCE AND REQUESTS BY WMO EX COM 28 AND JOC-12, ESPECIALLY REGARDING THE SCHEDULE AND SCOPE OF FGGE AND POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF DEFICIENCIES. SPECIFIC DEADLINES FOR COMMITMENTS WERE ESTABLISHED BY THE PANEL TO PROVIDE BY JANUARY 1, 1977 BEST POSSIBLE DEFINITION OF EXPECTED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE OBSERVING AND DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS. THIS WILL ALLOW JOC TO ASSESS THE ADEQUACY OF RESOURCES TO MEET THE MAJOR SCIENTIFIC OBJECTIVES AND TO RECOMMEND ANY NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS IN EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN PRIOR TO PANEL'S NEXT SESSION.

4. BASED ON NEW INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT THIS MEETING, SIGNIFICANT ADJUSTMENTS WERE MADE IN PLANS FOR SO-CALLED SPECIAL OBSERVING SYSTEMS TO BE DEPLOYED DURING TWO SIXTY-DAY SPECIAL OBSERVING PERIODS. THE USA DELEGATION INFORMED THE PANEL OF REVISED PLANS TO PROVIDE AN AIRCRAFT DROPSONDE SYSTEM TO OBTAIN TROPICAL OBSERVATIONS IN PLACE OF THE PREVIOUSLY PLANNED CARRIER BALLOON SYSTEM, AND TO CONSIDER A TROPICAL CONSTANT LEVEL BALLOON SYSTEM OPERATING NEAR 140 MB TO OBTAIN SUPPLEMENTARY OBSERVATIONS IN THE UPPER TROPOSPHERE. THE PANEL AGREED TO PROCEED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE CONSTANT LEVEL BALLOON SYSTEM PREVIOUSLY PLANNED BY FRANCE AND IRAN WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE, AND RECOGNIZED THE IMPLICATIONS POINTED OUT BY JOC. IT WAS AGREED THAT THIS LOSS DRAMATICALLY INCREASES THE IMPORTANCE OF SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE DRIFTING BUOY SYSTEM, AND OUTLINED ACTIONS TO MINIMIZE THE IMPACT ON ACHIEVING FGGE OBJECTIVES. A RATIONALE AND MECHANISM WERE DEVELOPED FOR ALLOCATING CONTRIBUTIONS MADE TO THE SPECIAL TEMPORARY VOLUNTARY FUND ESTABLISHED BY EX COM - 28 IN ORDER TO HELP FILL THE FEW REMAINING CRITICAL GAPS IN COMMITMENTS.

5. THE PANEL TOOK A FIRST STEP IN DEVELOPING A UNIFIED PLAN FOR THE VARIOUS TROPICAL OBSERVING SYSTEMS BY PREPARING A MAP ILLUSTRATING DEPLOYMENT CONCEPT DESIGNED TO PROVIDE COMPLEMENTARY COVERAGE BY TROPICAL WIND OBSERVING SHIPS, (TWOS), DROPSONDE AIRCRAFT, LAND AND ISLAND UPPER AIR STATIONS. THE PANEL REVIEWED THE EXTENSIVE EFFORT MADE SINCE ITS LAST SESSION TO ESTABLISH A PROCUREMENT SOURCE FOR IMPROVED NAVAID UPPER AIR OBSERVING SYSTEMS REQUIRED FOR MANY OF THE TWOS SHIPS, AND ESTABLISHED SPECIFIC

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CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES FOR THE FINAL SELECTION. STEPS TO FACILITATE PARTICIPATION OF ADDITIONAL SHIPS ALSO WERE OUTLINED.

6. TRULY MAJOR PROGRESS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED SINCE THE PREVIOUS SESSION IN FIRING UP STRUCTURE OF THE COMPLEX DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND OBTAINING COMMITMENTS FOR MAJOR FACILITIES AND FUNCTIONS REQUIRED. ONLY A FEW RELATIVELY MINOR COMMITMENTS STILL ARE NEEDED. THE OUTLINE OF ALL MAJOR ELEMENTS OF A

COMPREHENSIVE DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN WAS APPROVED, AND MANY SECTIONS ARE COMPLETE

7. THE PANEL CONTINUED THE STRUGGLE TO FIND MORE EFFECTIVE WAYS TO ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION OF OCEANOGRAPHERS IN THE PLANNING OF FGGE AND TO INCORPORATE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR OCEANOGRAPHIC OBSERVATIONS INTO OVERALL PROGRAM OF OBSERVATIONS AND DATA MANAGEMENT. THE REPRESENTATIVE OF IOC REPORTED MODES PROGRESS AND HELD OUT HOPE FOR A COMPREHENSIVE OCEANOGRAPHIC PROGRAM BY SPRING '77. THE USSR ALREADY HAD SUBMITTED A CONCRETE, WORLD WIDE PROGRAM TO EX COM - 28 WHICH WAS THE SUBJECT OF COME CONTROVERSY AT JOC-12 AND THE RESIDUAL EFFECT WAS APPARENT AT THIS SESSION.

8. A NUMBER OF SPECIFIC ACTIONS WERE TAKEN TO SPEED UP THE DETAILED PLANNING FOR REGIONAL EXPERIMENTS ON THE MONSOON, INCLUDING BOTH THE INDIAN/SOUTHEAST ASIA MONSOON (MONEX) AND THE WEST AFRICAN MONSOON EXPERIMENT (WAMEX). SCIENTIFIC AND MANAGEMENT GROUPS WILL BE FORMED FOR EACH EXPERIMENT, WITH SUPPORTING STAFF SECONDED BY PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES. THE PANEL SUPPORTED THE JOC RECOMMENDATIONS THAT MODEST POLAR EXPERIMENTS SHOULD BE PLANNED AND THAT THESE SHOULD NOT COMPETE FOR RESOURCES NEEDED FOR THE TROPICAL AND SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE PARTS OF FGGE.

9. THE PANEL STRONGLY AGREED WITH THE CONCERN EXPRESSED BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF ICSU THAT THE RESEARCH OBJECTIVES OF FGGE SHOULD NOT BE NEGLECTED IN THE PRESS OF PLANNING DATA-GATHERING ACTIVITIES. THE PANEL WELCOMED THE PRELIMINARY EFFORTS OF THE JOC TO BEGIN FORMULATING AN INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAM FOR FGGE, AND AGREED TO DEVOTE A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF ITS NEXT SESSION TO THIS ASPECT.

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10. PANEL RE-ELECTED GOSSET (FRANCE) TO CONTINUE AS CHAIRMAN THROUGH NEXT SESSION, PLANNED FOR FEB 14 - 19, 1977. IT RECOMMENDED THAT WMO EX COM RE-CONSIDER PANEL MEMBERSHIP, IN VIEW OF SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN STATED INTENTIONS TO PARTICIPATE, (E.G. NEW CONTRIBUTIONS BY INDIA AND SWEDEN, AND WITHDRAWAL BY IRAN.) ABRAMS

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